Political solution proposed by ULFA

378. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some top leaders of ULFA have proposed recently for political solution of their cause;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government; and

(c) what new steps have been taken by Government to solve this vexed problem of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the (a) above.

(c) The Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the path of peace and togetherness to give up violencaihnd come forward for talks within the frame work of the Indian Constitution. This applies in equal measure to the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). However, the ULFA has not responded to the offer of the Central Government for peace talks. So far, only Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) in Assam has come forward for peace talks.

News-item 'CISF ill-equipped to handle airport security'

379. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news-item "CISF ill-equipped to handle airport security" appearing in the Times of India dated 18th September, 2001.

(b) the reasons for not supplying full equipments to the Central Industrial Security Force for the protection of airport at Bangalore;

(c) whether such type of poor security arrangements are also existing in other airports, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Union Government to provide full security arrangements at all the airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SH&I CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There is regular co-ordination between CISF and Airport Authority of India (AAI) to address the issues related to induction and functioning of the CISF at the airports. AAI is providing all logistic support to CISF as per the norms of Ministry of Home Affairs and agreed to by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The equipments /gadgets required for access control have already been provided to the CISF. However, CISF's request for acquisition of modern gadgetry such as Bomb detection devices, colour x-rays, small and long range weapons and walkie-talkies are being processed by the Airport Authority of India and for airports including Bangalore airport.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the threat from terrorist Organizations, security of 23 airports has been entrusted to CISF in the first phase for better security arrangements. Basic security gadgets have already been provided at these airports. Comprehensive training is being provided to CISF personnel deployed at airports to enhance their skills for the specialized task of Aviation Security. Steps are also being taken to deploy CISF on the remaining operational airports in the country.

Shifting the Geothermal Power Plant from Manikaran In Kullu District

380. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Members of Parliament from Himachal Pradesh have requested to shift "Geothermal Power Plant" lying in tattered condition at Manikaran religious and tourist complex in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh immediately and to hand over the place to Gram Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?